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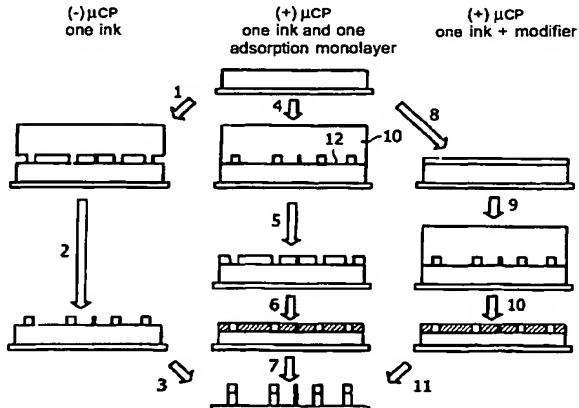
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(54) Title: A METHOD OF FORMING A PATTERNED LAYER ON A SUBSTRATE



(57) Abstract: A method of forming a patterned self-assembled monolayer (20) on a substrate (24) by means of a soft lithographic patterning process, the method comprising: a) providing patterning means (10) for defining the required pattern of said patterned self-assembled monolayer (20); b) forming a self-assembled monolayer (20) on a surface (22) of said substrate (24); c) applying said patterning means (10) to said surface of said substrate (24), said patterning means (10) being arranged to deliver a modifier to selected areas of said substrate surface, said selected areas corresponding to said required pattern or a negative thereof, said modifier comprising a chemical and being arranged to alter at said selected areas the strength of interaction between the molecules of said self-assembled monolayer (10) and said surface of said substrate (24); and d) selectively removing or replacing areas of said self-assembled monolayer (20) that, after step c), exhibit a lower strength of interaction between the molecules thereof and said surface of said substrate, thereby to form a self-assembled monolayer (20) having said required pattern. The modifier may be selected to decrease or increase the strength of interaction between the molecules of the self-assembled monolayer and the uppermost surface of the substrate, as required by the process.

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